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INFORMATION REPORT

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Although the following report is lacking in specific data, it bears interesting information on the continued conflict within Yugoslav Communist elements, and further reflects the sensitivity of the Yugoslav internal situation and its susceptibility to any and all rumors.

1. In Ljubljana, the circulation of news persists that Stalin is planning for the formal annexation of at least some of the bordering satellite countries. The motive for the settlement of this question is no longer a matter of prestige but one of the security of the Soviet Union.
2. This same information is now also being circulated among Communist cells in Yugoslavia. The trade apprentices who recently returned from Czechoslovakia are openly spreading these reports with the full approval of the UDB. The dissemination of such news (which is extremely unfavorable to the Soviet Union) indicates that the split between Moscow and Belgrade remains.
3. Foremost in Stalin's program of annexation is Rumania which appears most mature for such disposition. There have been serious discussions regarding the annexation of Bulgaria as well. In such an event, Yugoslavia would be on the Soviet Union frontier, and the pressure on Tito would be much more effective.
4. The solution of a Yugoslav reconciliation with Moscow, according to important Communist functionaries, would mean total elimination of Tito and his following, with a thorough purging of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia and complete subordination of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia to Moscow. This solution might have been possible two months ago when the Cominformists still had at their disposition many key positions in Yugoslavia. Today such a solution is almost impossible since the pro-Stalin elements have suffered unusually heavy losses, and their work has been forced underground.
5. A preview as to what awaits Tito and his regime, if he does not reach an agreement with the Communists, might be seen in

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the Free Territory of Trieste situation. In recent weeks the Tito adherents were reduced to an entirely insignificant group of hirelings and "Nazi-Communists". There is also an indication that Belgrade has lost interest in the Free Territory of Trieste.

6. The other solution of an urgent alliance with the West would cause such considerable hardship that not even an authoritarian regime with its dictatorial tactics could digest without trouble. The Yugoslav campaign against American imperialism has become the "morning and evening prayer of the Communist religion". American imperialism has been to blame for poor harvests, has undermined the Five Year Plan, has disseminated propaganda of lies and slander, and is generally the main cause of all domestic and foreign misfortunes.
7. Gradually some of the zealous nationalists are attempting to place the blame for all unpleasantness on the Soviet Union. In this they find the greatest number of sympathizers among the "reactionaries". On the other hand, it appears (since the decision has not yet been finally made) that such propaganda would cause great harm since it does not hit solely at Stalin, but also has Communist ideology as a target. Party "doctrinary tacticians" regularly gather to consider new slogans, but as yet they have not found effective one for the "eventuality when Tito may have to crawl into the American bag".
8. The fact that feverish work is being carried out along the borders, has no real military significance but, rather, is of police interest. With the completion of these frontier security measures, Yugoslavia will become a large concentration camp, from which flight will be extremely difficult, and, at the same time, infiltration from outside (which Tito fears most) will be considerably decreased.
9. Reports from Ljubljana state there have been serious discussion over the possibility of the Soviet Union and its satellites breaking away from the United Nations. The public is generally convinced that a complete break between the East and the West will take place at the current General Assembly meeting in Paris. It is said that Stalin already has worked out detailed plans for the formation of an Organization of United Eastern Nations in Moscow. These reports also claim that Stalin intends to completely seal himself off from the West. This, to him, is still urgently necessary because the West is winning over by its influence very select Communist circles. It is also said that Stalin is convinced that the Marshall Plan is already a success and that the only way left for him is complete isolation.
10. In Ljubljana there has been a rumor to the effect that a detailed plan for an attack on Tito's life has been made and that the execution of the plan was only hindered by chance. With regard to the time and place there apparently is much confusion. Many state that the attack was to be carried out in Dalmatia around 13 September. Others say it was to occur in Belgrade. Reports are at variance with reference to the perpetrators of the plan as well.
11. Some attribute the attempted assassination plan to Stalinists; others to Chetniks. [REDACTED] such information

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should be regarded with reservation since it frequently happens that such reports are spread by pro-Tito elements to solidify Tito's prestige and to show the reactionaries what would happen to them were Tito removed and leadership taken over by Cominformists. Tito followers are using all means to obtain new sympathizers among the so-called middle-of-the-road group, and have been successful in some cases.

12. Chaos reigns in Communist cells, growing chiefly from the distrust between Party members themselves and from confused leadership which issues contradictory directives to the cells. There is no uniform thought on even the most important questions. Thus some cells are receiving strict orders to use all means to stamp out Cominform ideology. Such directives are being received particularly by those cells located in the immediate vicinity of the country's border-cells which not long ago had strong connection with the Slav Communist cells of Italy, the Free Territory of Trieste, and Austria. The cells located in the inner sectors, such as those in Ljubljana, are receiving different directives. The latter speak of the necessity of establishing peaceful relations between Moscow and Belgrade, of reaching an understanding with the Soviet Union, regarding the particular nature of Yugoslav economic, social, and political structure, and, further, that Tito's Yugoslavia, in the past, too hurriedly introduced Communist methods, only to gratify the wishes of the Kremlin.
13. At first glance it would appear that the Yugoslav Politburo is carrying out its tactics along a fine line with a differentiation made for its border and internal cells. Examination, however, reveals that the difference in directives is a result of the disagreement within the Politburo, the members of which hand out directives to their own adherents. Others think that the current chaos has come about because Tito's enemies have installed themselves in the administrative apparatus with the intent of causing confusion. However, it is not known who these enemies might be or to what movement they belong.
14. There is a rumor that very recently deeply disturbed the Ljubljana public. This rumor asserted that Tito fled to Italy and that Stalinists had taken over the Yugoslav Government.

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